

Annual Report

FOR THE TOWN OF

Benton

New Hampshire

*Year Ending December 31
2007*

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Town of Benton, N.H.

Annual Report of Town Officers
Year Ended December 31, 2007

Table of Contents

Benton Town Officers.....	5
Annual Town Meeting Warrant	7
Budget & Summary Analysis - Revenues	8
Budget & Summary Analysis - Expenditures	9
Comparative Statement of Appropriations & Expenditures....	10
Report of the Treasurer	11
Detailed statement of Payments by the Selectmen	13
Report of the Tax Collector	17
Report of Clerk to Treasurer	19
Report of the Town Clerk	20
Schedule of Non-Taxable Property	21
Summary of Inventory Valuation.....	22
Report of the Trustees of the Trust Funds.....	23
Year 2007 Town Meeting Results	24
Vital Statistics	28
Annual Report of the Benton School District	29

Katie Ella Jewell Goodwin

January 17, 1911 - September 2, 2007



This year saw the passing of Benton's oldest resident, Katie Goodwin. Katie was the second child and only daughter born to William and Celia Jewell in Lunenburg, VT. After several years, the family moved to Red Village, VT where, when Katie was seven, her mother died and she relied on her aunts who lived nearby for maternal needs. She did occasionally need help from a neighbor to brush her hair before going to school, and sometimes her brother had to help braid it.

At age 15, her father could no longer afford to buy her school supplies, so she repeated 8th grade, her last formal education. In June of the year she started work in the Goodwin's home. The Goodwins lived next door to the Mountain View House, and took overflow guests in. The senior Mr. Goodwin had a residential milk route which his son, Max, eventually took over.

After a romance developed between Max and Katie, she wrote to her father to ask his permission since she was underage. When no response came, she decided that meant her father consented, and the two were married on March 21, 1927. Katie helped in the business by putting the milk caps on the bottles. Their daughter Maxine was born in 1928. When she was old enough, Maxine took over the capping. In 1944, the Goodwins bought a farm in Landaff, and Katie worked along side Max in the fields.

Katie never cut her hair because her mother-in-law felt it frivolous to visit a hair salon. Her hair became so long that she sat on it and kept it braided and wrapped around her head. In late 1955, some time after the passing of her in-laws, Maxine cut off her mom's braids, gave her her first home permanent, and saved the braids in a box. Katie was a new woman!

In 1947 Maxine married George Tyler and moved Katie and Max with her to Howe Hill in Benton. In 1969 Max passed away, having been married to Katie for 42 years. For the next 5 years, George would drive Katie to visit her brother in Northwood, NH. After George passed away in 1974, Maxine took the driver's test and got her license. She and Katie would go to Northwood.

Over the years, Katie and Maxine cooked, cleaned, crocheted, sewed, embroidered and tended the garden together. Maxine felt blessed to have such a special mother who was also like a big sister and friend, all in one. "Winters never seemed long to us", said Maxine.

Katie was a Ballot Inspector at elections, coming down with Maxine and crocheting or embroidering for most of the day. She also baked some of "the best bread around" according to those lucky enough to have sampled her loaves.

Adapted from a birthday program for Katie's 90th birthday by Stephanie Saffo.

BENTON TOWN OFFICERS

		Term	Exp. Date
Board of Selectmen:	Jeremy Elliott Marjorie L. Robitzer * Albert Boutin, Jr.	3 yrs 3 yrs. 3 yrs.	2008 2009 2010
Moderator:	Gilbert Richardson	2 yrs.	2008
Town Clerk:	Michael Stiebitz	1 yr.	2008
Treasurer:	Richard Dickenson	1 yr.	2008
Auditor:	Robert Steel	1 yr.	2008
Tax Collector:	Sharon Edwards *	1 yr.	2008
Supervisors of the Checklist:	Deborah Boutin Nellie Dickenson Arthur Christopher	3 Yrs. 3 yrs 3 yrs	2008 2009 2010
Ballot Clerk:	Steven Saffo	1 yr.	2008
Ballot Inspector:	Maxine Tyler	1 yr.	2008
Surveyors of Wood & Lumber:	Joseph Boutin, Jr.	1 yr.	2008
Trustees of the Trust Funds:	Laura Richardson Joyce Hassel Martin Noble	3 yrs. 3 yrs. 3 yrs.	2008 2009 2010
Planning Board:	Richard Saffo, Sr. Phillip Chicoine ** Wayne Chevaller Kenneth Kealey Jeremy Elliott	5 yrs. 5 yrs. 5 yrs. 5 yrs. Ex Officio Member	2008 2009 2010 2011 Ex Officio Member
Sexton:	Marty Noble Assistant (Vacant)	1 Yr.	2008
Police Officer/Director of Emergency Mgmt.	Stefan Cimikowski - appointed by Selectmen		

* Not running for re-election

** Vacant

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Grafton S.S.

March 11, 2008

Town of Benton

To the inhabitants of the Town of Benton qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Benton Community Building in said Benton on the second Tuesday of March next, the 11th, at seven o'clock in the evening to vote and act upon the following subjects:

ARTICLE 1 To choose a Town Clerk, a Treasurer, a Tax Collector, an Auditor, a Ballot Clerk, a Ballot Inspector, a Sexton, an Assistant to the Sexton and a Surveyor of Wood and Lumber for a term of one year; a Moderator and a Selectman for a period of two years; a Supervisor of the Checklist and a Selectman for a term of three years; a Member of the Planning Board for a term of five years and any other agents or Officers necessary for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 2 To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of officers and agents as printed.

ARTICLE 3 Non-Lapsing Special Warrant Article.

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$4,630 to replace the windows in the Benton Town Hall building. The monies are to be drawn from the surplus in the General Fund.

(This article requires a 2/3 majority vote on a written ballot)

The Selectmen recommend this article.

ARTICLE 4 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$113,193 for General Municipal Operations.

The Selectmen recommend this article.

A True Copy - Attest
Selectmen of Benton

Jeremy Elliott
Jeremy Elliott

Albert J. Boutin, Jr.

Marjorie L. Robitzer
Marjorie L. Robitzer

BUDGET AND SUMMARY ANALYSIS
Estimate of Revenue

Sources of Revenue	Est. 2007	Rec. 2007	Est. 2008
Yield Taxes	\$9,000	\$2,436	\$4,500
Interest on Delinquent Taxes	3,000	2,870	3,000
Motor Vehicle Registrations	42,000	50,750	45,000
White Mountain Nat'l Forest	30,000	32,236	33,500
State of New Hampshire			
Shared Revenue	1,605	1,605	1,605
Rooms & Meals Tax	11,000	14,055	13,000
Highway Bloc Grant	11,509	11,509	12,071
Income From Trust Funds	350	305	310
Dog Licenses & Fines	400	420	420
Interest on Deposits	420	376	420
Totals	\$109,284	\$116,562	\$113,826

**SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT #23
REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT'S AND
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S SALARIES**

One-half of the School Administrative Unit expenses are prorated among the school districts on the basis of adjusted valuation. One-half is prorated on the basis of average daily membership in the schools for the previous school year ending June 30. The Superintendent of SAU #23, during the 2007-08 school year will receive a salary of \$89,409.00. There is no Assistant Superintendent or Business Administrator at SAU 23 at this time.

The table below shows the pro-ration of the salary to each school district:

Superintendent Salary		
Bath	11,176.13	12.50%
Benton	1,680.89	1.88%
Haverhill Cooperative	57,481.05	64.29%
Piermont	10,183.69	11.39%
Warren	8,887.25	9.94%
TOTAL	\$89,409.00	100%

HAVERHILL COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT TEACHER QUALITY REPORT

Education Level of Faculty and Administration at Each School

	BA	BA+15	MA	MA+30
WES Teachers	5.6	11	3	3
WES Administration			1	
HCMS Teachers	6.5	6	14.5	4
HCMS Administration			1	1
WHS Teachers	8	13	7.6	3
WHS Administration			1	1

Number of Teachers with Provisional (Intern) Certification

Woodsville Elementary School	0
Haverhill Cooperative Middle School	1
Woodsville High School	2

Number of Core Academic Courses Not Taught By Highly Qualified Teachers

Woodsville Elementary School	0
Haverhill Cooperative Middle School	0
Woodsville High School	0

PARENTS RIGHT TO KNOW

As a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, or Legal guardian, you have the right to know:

1. Who is teaching your child
2. The qualifications and experience of your child's teacher(s)

For information concerning your child's teacher(s), please contact the Superintendent's Office at:
SAU #23

2975 Dartmouth College Highway
North Haverhill, NH 03774
603-787-2113

A copy of the Haverhill Cooperative School District Title One Report Card is available at each school

Treasurer's Report

Received from Tax Collector:

Property taxes (Year 2004)	\$1,931.60
Interest and costs	795.68
Total 2004	\$2,727.28
Property taxes (Year 2005)	\$3,214.65
Interest and costs	353.74
Total 2005	\$3,568.39
Property taxes (Year 2006)	\$35,357.33
Interest and costs	683.48
Total 2006	\$36,040.81
Property taxes (Year 2007)	\$144,787.09
Total 2007	\$144,787.09
Prepaid 2008 taxes	\$10.00
Yield Tax Collections	\$2,435.91
Current Use Land Change	\$820.00
Total from Tax Collector	\$190,389.48

Received from the Town Clerk:

Motor Vehicle Permits	\$50,750.00
Motor Vehicle Transfers	180.00
Vital Statistics - St. of New Hamps	24.00
Dog Licenses issued	420.00
Marriage Licenses	38.00
Total from Town Clerk	\$51,412.00

Treasurer's Report (cont'd)

Received from the Selectmen:

Pistol Permits	\$80.00
Building Permits	570.00
Hall Rental	140.00
Misc.	145.74
Trustees of the Trust Fund (Ceme	417.81
Fire Insurance Monies Ret'd to To	1,000.00
Refund from State of Unemp. Tax	506.28
Beautify Benton Committee (Reint	170.00
Total from Selectmen	\$3,029.83

Received from State & Federal Sources

St. of N. H. - Rooms & meals tax	\$14,055.24
St. of N. H. - Hwy. Block Grant	11,509.03
St. of N. H. - Revenue Sharing	\$1,605.00
U.S. Dept. of Ag., Forest Service	32,236.00
Total Received from State & Federal Sources	\$59,405.27

Total receipts for 2007	\$304,236.58
Cash on hand as of 1/1/07	298,517.15
Bank interest	376.32
Less Selectmen's orders for 2007	\$290,642.10

Year-end Total Cash	\$312,487.95
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Acct. 30502 - Yield Account:

Cash on hand - 1/1/07	\$2,759.01
Interest	9.67
Deposits	530.00
Withdrawals	0
Year-end Yield Acct. Balance	\$3,298.68

Respectfully submitted,

Richard A. Dickenson, Treasurer

**Detailed Statement of Payments
By The Selectmen**

Selectmen:

Salaries:	\$2,216.40
Expenses:	53.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,269.40

Financial Administration:

Salaries:	R. Steel, Auditor	\$92.35
	Sharon Edwards, Tax Coll.	554.10
	M. Stiebitz, Town Clerk	757.73
	Richard Dickenson, Treas.	369.40
	Joseph Boutin, Jr. - Surveyor of Wood & Lumber	184.70
	P. Chicoine, Sexton	831.15
		<hr/>
		\$2,789.43

Office Expenses:	Town Report:	\$570.00
	Law Book:	25.00
	N.H. Recorder of Deeds:	66.38
	Notices:	318.00
	Supervisors of the Check List	106.00
	General Office Expenses:	1599.71
		<hr/>
		\$2,685.09

Town Hall:

Repairs:	\$72.00
Walter Jock Oil:	2153.65
Verizon:	393.00
N.H. Elec. Co-op	1046.63
	<hr/>
	\$3,665.28

Detailed Statement of Payments (cont'd)

Special Fund, Town Hall:

New Hot water Heater: \$369.00

Insurance:

L.G.C. Worker's Comp.	\$500.00
L.G.C. Town Hall:	1,517.66
	<hr/>
	\$2,017.66

Regional Associations:

N.H. Municipal Assoc.	\$563.19
North Country Council	296.69
N.H. Assoc. Of Tax Collectors	20.00
N.H. Town Clerks Assoc. (2 yrs.)	40.00
	<hr/>
	\$919.88

Dispatch Service: \$1,500.00

Police Account

Equipment, Adjustment & Repairs	\$1,244.05
Equipment:	84.96
Annual Organizations:	200.00
Vehicle Costs	2000.00
St. of N.H.	30.00
	<hr/>
	\$3,559.01

Ambulance Service: \$3,297.60

Detailed Statement of Payments (cont'd)

Fire Protection:

Twin State Mutual:	\$1,000.00
Haverhill Corner Fire Co:	750.00
Haverhill Corner Fire Co:	995.00
North Haverhill Fire Co:	750.00
North Haverhill Fire Co:	1795.00
	<hr/>
	\$5,290.00

Roads:

Elliott Construction:	\$32,956.00
Morrill:	1,137.50
Lee Waterhouse, Mowing:	1,920.00
Materials and Supplies:	5,917.80
	<hr/>
	\$41,931.30

Welfare:

North Country Home Health:	300.00
Grafton Co. Senior Center:	300.00
Tri-County Community Action:	300.00
Northern Human Services:	300.00
N.H. Elec. Co-op:	166.00
N.H. Elec. Co-op:	351.93
	<hr/>
	\$1,717.93

Taxes Bought By The Town: \$8,752.32

Abatements and Refunds: \$1,433.00

Deposited to Capital Reserve Fund For Roads: \$5,000.00

Detailed Statement of Payments (cont'd)

State of New Hampshire Interest:

Vital Records:	\$62.00
Animal Population Control:	161.00
	<hr/>
	\$223.00
Unemployment Comp:	\$54.88
Social Sec. & Medicare:	\$559.83
Assessing:	\$4,972.00
County Tax:	\$32,965.00
Schools:	\$164,864.00
	<hr/>
	Total Checks Written
	\$290,835.61

Selectmen of Benton

Marjorie L. Robitzer

Marjorie L. Robitzer

Jeremy A. Elliott

Jeremy Elliott

Albert J. Boutin, Jr.

Albert J. Boutin, Jr.

TOWN OF BENTON
Tax Collector's Report - 2007

2007

	Cr.	Dr.
Taxes Committed This Year:		
Property Taxes		\$212,404.26
Land Use Change		820.00
Yield Taxes		2,435.91
Prepay of 2008 Taxes		10.00
 Taxes Collected & Sent to Treasurer		
Property Taxes	\$144,787.09	
Land Use Change	820.00	
Yield Taxes	2,435.91	
Prepay of 2008 Taxes	10.00	
 SubTotal	\$148,053.00	
 Taxes Uncollected at Year-end	\$67,617.17	
 Totals	\$215,670.17	\$215,670.17

2006

	Cr	Dr
 Taxes Uncollected at Beginning of Year		\$33,387.75
Interest on Delinquent Taxes & Costs		683.48
 Taxes Collected & Sent to Treasurer		
Property Taxes	\$24,615.43	
Interest & Penalties	683.48	
Conversion to lien	8,752.32	
Abatements made	20.00	
 Totals	\$34,071.23	\$34,071.23

TOWN OF BENTON
Tax Collector's Report - 2007 (Cont'd)

	Cr.		Dr.
<u>2005</u>			
Unredeemed Liens Bal. at Beginning of Year			\$7,527.22
Interest & Costs Included in Lien			349.74
Remitted to Treasurer			
Redemptions	\$3,218.65		
Unredeemed Liens Bal. at End of Year	4,308.57		
Interest & Cost After Lien Execution	349.74		
Totals	\$7,876.96		\$7,876.96
<u>2004</u>			
Unredeemed Liens Bal. at Beginning of Year			\$1,943.25
Interest & Costs Collected After Lien Execution			795.68
Remitted to Treasurer			
Redemptions	\$1,931.60		
Interest & Costs Collected After Lien Execution	795.68		
Interest Abatements	11.65		
Totals	\$2,738.93		\$2,738.93

Report of Clerk to Treasurer – Benton, NH Year End Totals for 2007

Motor Vehicle Permits Issued (464):	\$51,554.00
Dog Licenses Issued and Fines Collected (65/0):	\$450.50
Marriage Licenses Issued (1):	\$45.00
Vital Record Searches (3):	\$36.00
Fines/Penalties:	\$0.00
Reimbursed bounced check:	\$0.00
<u>Total Collected by Town Clerk for 2007:</u>	<u>\$52,085.50</u>

Motor Vehicles:	\$50,930.00
Dog Licenses Issued and Fines Collected (63/0):	\$420.00
Marriage Licenses Issued (1):	\$38.00
Vital Record Searches (3):	\$24.00
Fines/Penalties:	\$0.00
Reimbursed bounced check:	\$0.00
<u>Total Submitted to the Treasurer for 2007:</u>	<u>\$51,412.00</u>

Motor Vehicles:	\$624.00
Dog Licenses Issued and Fines Collected (63/0):	\$30.50
Marriage Licenses Issued (1):	\$7.00
Vital Record Searches (3):	\$12.00
<u>Total Retained by Town Clerk for 2007:</u>	<u>\$673.50</u>

Michael F. Stickitz, Town Clerk

Notes From the Town Clerk's Office

2007 saw an incredible amount of volunteer effort expended at the Town Building through the efforts of The Beautify Benton Committee and other willing volunteers. The main hall was cleaned, scrubbed, painted and generally spruced up, and all of the windows were thoroughly washed. The kitchen was cleaned, windows washed, curtains were made, cabinets were reset complete with new hardware, and a new countertop and sink were installed. The cellar was rid of a lot of junk, cleaned, and foam insulation was sprayed in the holes in the foundation.

Conservation cases were purchased for several of Benton's memorabilia such as the drum used in parades of the late 1800's by the town's own Fife and Drum Corp. The drum was donated to the town by the family of William and Mary Clough. Also encased was an American Flag, also believed to have been used back in the late 1800's. Additionally, some very attractive literature racks have been placed in the anteroom, organizing and centralizing the various public service brochures and information. With money set aside for the purpose from the previous warrant, the ancient water heater was replaced with a new Marathon unit, guaranteed for life.

Various external "modifications" also took place over the year, including gardening work around the flagpole, Christmas wreaths on the Town Building as well as at the entrances to our cemeteries, and a new flag whenever it was needed.

The funds spent on these projects were either from money raised from our Memory Tree or from anonymous donors. On that note, the Memory Tree was beautiful, standing as a reminder of all that we are because of those we loved and who have passed before us.

The list of volunteers included: Dick and Nellie Dickenson, Deb and Chelsea McKean, Steph Saffo, Diana and Shawn Roden, Sam Boutin, Lyn Bandy, and Mike Stiebitz. If I have forgotten anyone, I do apologize! Bravo and thanks to everyone involved in these activities. We have a Town Building that we can all be proud of!

One last note on dogs: all owners of dogs over 4 months old must license them each year before April 30th. After May 30th, any license fee which remains unpaid can be increased by \$1.00 per month. Please make every effort this year to get your dogs licensed before April 30th.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael P. Stiebitz, Town Clerk

Schedule of Non-Taxable Property

Town of Benton:

	Map	Lot #	Lot Size	Value
Crowther Lot	2	52	.3 ac	\$5500
Mountain View Cemetery	1	113/114	.22 ac	20400
High Street Cemetery	6	4	.3 ac	500
East Cemetery	1	29	.3 ac	300
Old Town Hall Lot	1	126	.05 ac	5200
Benton Town Hall, Land, Bldg.	1	18	.3 ac	71900
Benton Bible Chapel	1	49	1.4 ac	211300
Benton Bible Parsonage	1	58	1.4 ac	94300
North Benton Union Loc.	1	32	.7 ac	8500
State of New Hampshire:				
Glencliff Home	6	7	107 ac	8093700
State Forest Division	6	7	401 ac	179000
United States Dept. of Agriculture:				
U.S. Forest Service		W.M.N.F	23,658.8 ac	10646500
Totals			24,174.3 ac	\$19,337,100

TOWN OF BENTON
Summary of Inventory Valuation

Land, Improved and Unimproved:	
Under "Current Use" - 4,733.3 acres	\$170,994
Conservation Restriction - 369.0 acres	2,448
Residential Land - 2,138.6 acres	4,923,125
Commercial Land - 1.1 acres	20,100
<hr/>	
Total	\$5,116,667
Tax Exempt Land - 24,174.4 acres	\$11,032,300
Tax Exempt Buildings	\$8,341,900
Housing:	
Residential and Allied Buildings	\$9,080,300
Manufactured Housing	695,500
Commercial Bldg.	21,200
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Total	\$9,797,000
Public Utilities	\$930,012
Total Assessments:	\$15,797,579
Less Elderly Exemptions (1)	15,000
<hr/>	
Net Valuation on which tax rate is computed	\$15,782,579
Less Public Utilities	930,012
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Net Valuation on which State Education tax is computed	\$14,852,567
Less Veteran's Exemptions	1,350
<hr/>	
Final Total of Inventory Valuation	\$14,851,217
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State Education Tax	\$3.29
Local Education Tax Rate	9.84
County Tax	2.09
Town Tax	-1.42
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Total Tax Commitment	\$13.80
To Raise	\$213.416

Report of the Trustees of the Trust Funds
For the Year Ending December 31, 2007

Funds donated to the Town of Benton are in the custody of the Trustees. Donations are distributed as specified by the donors. Funds received during the year are deposited in a savings account until they can be transferred into the appropriate financial tool. Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank in Woodsville, NH holds all funds.

Year 2007 Donations – Cemetery Trust

Albert J. Boutin, Jr	\$ 150.00
Betty Nickles	\$ 145.00
Harriet D. Robinson	\$ 300.00

Status of the Funds is as follows:

Trust Fund Savings, Account # 617453	\$ 3,829.26
Principal Amount in Cemetery/Common Trust Fund, CDARS Acc't #1001362999	\$ 11,719.54
Capital Reserve Fund, CD Acc't # 708751 → CDARS Acc't #1001752509	
Highways/Roads, interest included	\$ 33,490.74
Capital Reserve Fund, Acc't # 617456 – Fires, interest included	\$ 4,451.65
Capital Reserve Fund – Schools, interest included CDARS Acc't #1001027634 → 1002213083	\$17,866.46
CDARS Acc't #1001269328 → 1001544906	\$84,039.80
 Total	 <hr/> \$155,397.45

Distributions of Interest at the end of 2007 from the Cemetery/Common Trust Fund

For cemetery use	\$ 286.24
For the schools	\$ 69.19
For the highway account	\$ 62.38
 Total	 <hr/> \$ 417.81

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Richardson
Martin Noble
Joyce Hassell

Town Meeting – Benton, New Hampshire

March 13, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:10PM by the moderator Gil Richardson. Motion to recess to the School Meeting. Reconvened Town Meeting at 7:20PM.

Article 1

To choose a Town Clerk, a Treasurer, a Tax Collector, an Auditor, a Ballot Clerk, a Ballot Inspector, a Sexton, an Assistant to the Sexton, and a Surveyor of Wood and Lumber, all for a term of one year, a Trustee of the Trust Funds, a Supervisor of The Checklist and a Selectman for a term of three years, for a term of three years, a Member of the Planning Board for a term of five years, and any other Agents or Officers necessary for the ensuing year. Motion was made to accept article as written, motion was seconded and accepted by voice vote.

The following Town Officers were elected (by the Town Clerk or Moderator casting one ballot after a voice vote):

Town Clerk	1 Yr Term	Michael Stiebitz
Treasurer	1 Yr Term	Richard Dickenson
Tax Collector	1 Yr Term	Sharon Edwards
Auditor	1 Yr Term	Robert Steel
Ballot Clerk	1 Yr Term	Steve Saffo
Ballot Inspector	1 Yr Term	Maxine Tyler
Sexton	1 Yr Term	Philip Chicoine
Sexton Assistant	1 Yr Term	Marty Noble
Surveyor of Wood & Lumber	1 Yr Term	Joseph Boutin, Jr.
Trustee of the Trust Funds	3 Yr Term	Marty Noble
Supervisor of the Checklist	3 Yr Term	Arthur Christopher
Selectman	3 Yr Term	Albert Boutin, Jr.
Member of the Planning Board	5 Yr Term	Kenneth Kealey
Other Agents as Required	-	None

Article 2

To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of Officers and Agents as printed.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the reports of officers and agents as printed and passed by a voice vote.

Article 3

To see if the Town will vote to buy a new water heater for the Town Hall to be paid from the Town Building Fund, the present balance of which is \$1,202. A twenty gallon heater will cost \$369, plus shipping and installation. Our present heater is rusty and leaking.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written and passed by a unanimous voice vote of the eligible voters present.

Town Meeting – Benton, New Hampshire
March 13, 2007

Article 4

To see if the Town will vote to raise the price of building permits to \$55 to better cover the cost connected with re-assessments of new buildings or additions.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written and passed by a voice vote. Some discussion ensued regarding the actual costs involved in issuing building permits. The cost of reassessing alone is \$40 per lot. In addition, there are 5 sets of documents that must be updated to reflect the changes/additions specified in the building permit.

A motion was made to approve the increase, the motion was seconded and the article passed unanimously by voice vote.

Article 5

To see if the Town will vote to raise the price of cemetery lots to \$75.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written and passed by a voice vote. A motion was made to approve the increase, the motion was seconded and the article passed unanimously by voice vote.

After determining that additional discussion was warranted, the moderator asked for a motion to reopen the article for discussion, a motion was made, seconded and discussion resumed. Research by the Selectmen revealed that Haverhill cemetery plots were selling for \$100 each in 1990. In 2003, Benton voted to restrict sales of our cemetery lots to residents, but did not increase the price. This article brings the price of our lots more in line with that of surrounding towns. It was also decided that the effective date for the increase will be May 13, 2007, in order to give prospective buyers time to get in "under the wire".

A motion was made to approve the implementation date, the motion was seconded and the article passed unanimously by voice vote.

Article 6

To see if the Town will go on record in support of effective actions by the President and Congress with regard to the issue of climate change which is becoming increasingly harmful to the environment, the economy of New Hampshire, and to the future well-being of the people of Benton.

The actions include:

1. Establishment of a national program requiring reductions of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions while protecting the U.S. economy.
2. Creation of a major national research initiative to foster rapid development of sustainable energy technologies, thereby stimulating new jobs and investment.

The record of the vote on this article will be transmitted to the President of the United States and to the declared candidates of that office.

76 Benton residents signed this petition at the last election at the Town Hall.

Town Meeting – Benton, New Hampshire
March 13, 2007

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written and passed by a voice vote. Laura Richardson discussed the scope and intent of this article and pointed out that over 180 New Hampshire towns have this article on their warrants as well, demonstrating the urgency with which our fellow citizens view this issue.

A motion was made to approve the article, the motion was seconded and the article passed unanimously by voice vote.

Article 7

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$96,263 for General Municipal operations.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written and passed by a voice vote. Discussion ensued regarding assessing costs contained in the article. Marjorie stated that the State of New Hampshire has mandated that all property must be reassessed every 5 years. In order to spread out our costs, the Selectmen have contracted with our assessor to reassess $\frac{1}{4}$ of the town's property every year. The reassessed valuations will go into effect after the fourth and final year's assessments are completed, thus avoiding an uneven and potentially unfair application of the new values.

If a landowner builds or upgrades after the quarterly assessment, the building permit process will trigger a reassessment for that lot, thus bringing the valuation current.

A motion was made to approve the budget, the motion was accepted, and the article passed unanimously by voice vote.

Gil then asked if there was any other business to discuss. When no one else responded, he brought up the fact that our longest (since 1984!) serving Selectman wishes to step down at some point in the near future. He pointed out that no one seems to be jumping into the race and we as a town need to deal with this issue. He suggested creation of a search/investigative committee to first identify the duties required of a Selectman, and then to generate a short list of potential candidates.

Laura Richardson suggested that the committee be formed of at least 3 members.

Wayne Chevalier asked if there were existing job descriptions for any office in town. Since no job descriptions are known to exist, it was suggested that all present office holders generate a basic statement of work. These will form the basis of a manual for the town in the case of emergency vacancies, and/or normal turnover of the positions. Laura inquired if there are offices in town that are not currently staffed. It was found that there are indeed several, including Health Officer and Zoning Board. She suggested that a list should be created to document the vacant offices.

After much discussion, it was decided that a search/investigative team would be formed for ultimate purpose of identifying a replacement Selectman for Marjorie.

Town Meeting – Benton, New Hampshire
March 13, 2007

Gil Richardson was nominated as chairman, Lyn Bandy and Mike Stiebitz volunteered to be committee members.

The committee will have its first meeting within the next few weeks.

All office holders will be requested to generate a job description which will be forwarded to the committee by June 1, 2007.

The committee, after it completes its research, will make recommendations to the town regarding the selection of a candidate for Selectman.

A motion was made to approve the formation of the committee, the motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22PM. All new Town Officers present were sworn in at the closing.

A true copy
Attest:



Michael Stiebitz – Town Clerk
Benton, New Hampshire
March 19, 2007

Vital Statistics for 2007

Benton, NH

Deaths

		Died
Kenison Knight	(Glencliff Home)	04/16/2007
Edith Roylos	(Glencliff Home)	05/08/2007
Howard Washburn, Jr.	(Glencliff Home)	07/20/2007
Catherine Reed	(Glencliff Home)	07/22/2007
Katie Goodwin		09/02/2007
Laurier Desbiens	(Glencliff Home)	10/18/2007
Flossie Mann	(Glencliff Home)	11/07/2007
Harriet Johnson	(Glencliff Home)	11/29/2007
Lawrence Panaggio	(Glencliff Home)	12/03/2007
Harold Alpheee Gagnon	(Glencliff Home)	12/21/2007
Jean S. Baerthlein	(Glencliff Home)	12/23/2007

Marriages

June 2, 2007	Kimberly M. Sutherland and Jared S. Chicoine in Woodsville, NH
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Births

January 12, 2007	Mya Marie Boutin, daughter of Eleanor and Joseph Boutin III in Lebanon, NH
May 7, 2007	Camden Michael Weiss, son of Gretchen and Kevin Weiss in Woodsville, NH
September 10, 2007	Aaron Cody White, son of Angela and Aaron White in Woodsville, NH
October 16, 2007	Michael Patrick Plachetzki, son of Katherine and David Plachetzki in Woodsville, NH

**ANNUAL REPORT
of the
BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007**

DISTRICT OFFICERS

SCHOOL BOARD

Alexandria Noble, CHAIR	Term Expires 2008
Lara Saffo	Term Expires 2009
Wayne Chevalier	Term Expires 2010

OTHER DISTRICT OFFICERS

Gilbert Richardson.....	Moderator
Maxine Tyler	Treasurer
Robert Steel.....	Auditor
Michael Stiebitz.....	Clerk

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Bruce C. Labs

**BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL WARRANT
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

To the inhabitants of the School District of Benton in the County of Grafton, State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in district affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Town Hall in said district on the 11th day of March 2008, at 7:00 o'clock in the evening to act upon the following subjects:

- ARTICLE 1: To choose a Moderator for the ensuing year.
- ARTICLE 2: To choose a School District Clerk for the ensuing year.
- ARTICLE 3: To choose one School Board Member, for a term of three years, to expire in 2011.
- ARTICLE 4: To choose a Treasurer for the ensuing year.
- ARTICLE 5: To choose an Auditor for the ensuing year.
- ARTICLE 6: To hear reports of Agents, Committees, or Officers chosen and pass any vote related thereto.
- ARTICLE 7: To see what sum of money the district will raise and appropriate for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries of school district officials and agents and for the payment of statutory obligations of the district. This article is exclusive of any other article on the warrant. (The school board recommends \$461,552.00)
- ARTICLE 8: To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Given under our hands at said Benton this _____ day of February, 2008

Alexandria Noble, Chairman
Wayne Chevalier
Lara Saffo

BENTON SCHOOL BOARD

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL WARRANT
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
March 13, 2007

The meeting opened at: 7:12 PM.

ARTICLE 1

To choose a Moderator for the coming year.

Gilbert Richardson

ARTICLE 2

To choose a Clerk for the ensuing year

Michael Stiebitz

ARTICLE 3

To choose one School Board Member for a term of three years expiring in 2010.

Wayne Chevalier

ARTICLE 4

To choose a Treasurer for the ensuing year.

Maxine Tyler

ARTICLE 5

To choose an Auditor for the ensuing year.

Robert Steel

ARTICLE 6

To hear reports of Agents, Committees, or Officers chosen and pass any vote relating thereto.

Article 6 was moved and seconded and accepted by voice vote.

ARTICLE 7

To see what sum of money the district will raise and appropriate for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries of school district officials and agents, and for the payment of statutory obligations of the district. This Article is exclusive of any other Article on the Warrant. (The school board recommends \$409,689.00)

Article 7 was moved and seconded and accepted by voice vote.

ARTICLE 8

To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Motion was made to accept this article as written, motion was seconded and accepted by voice vote.

No other business was transacted.

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 PM. All new officers present were sworn in at the closing.

A true copy

Attest:

Michael Stiebitz
Benton School District Clerk
Benton, NH
March 19, 2007

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Once again it is my pleasure to report on the educational progress and positive steps we have made in the past year, and the steps we will continue to make to improve the educational experience of our students.

After two years of study, and looking at the scores from the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) and the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) tests, a Standards Based Math Series has been selected for grades K-5. We intend to pilot the *Everyday Math* series in the 2007-2008 school year at those grade levels.

A new teacher evaluation document is being piloted in all the SAU 23 districts. This new document should help teachers develop their skills while at the same time focus teaching in the areas of need for our students. We are attempting to use test data to help in the direction of our instruction in the upcoming years.

Developing our use of technology within the school district continues and we have added to our capacity in each school. Due to the continued support of our taxpayers, our students enjoy the benefit of technological resources that enrich their educational experience.

Each district in SAU 23 is currently updating their policies and we plan to finish this process by the end of 2008. After all the policies have been updated and approved by the School Board we will place them on our web site so the public will have easy access to them. This is a lengthy process, as each district has between 400-600 pages of policies to go through. The entire process will take approximately two years.

During the 2007-08 school year each SAU 23 School Board will be developing goals. They will be targeting the areas they feel are most important in their own district and when the goals are complete they will be posted for all community members to review.

I continue to be grateful for the support the taxpayers and community members have shown our schools and assure you that your support will never be taken for granted. The decisions on the direction of our programs will continue to be made with the best educational interests of our students and their future in mind.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce C. Labs
Superintendent of Schools

BUDGET AND SUMMARY ANALYSIS
Estimate of Expenditures

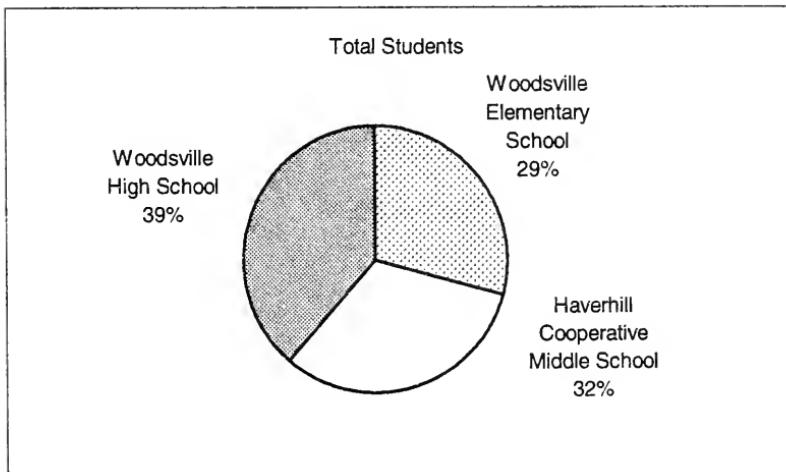
Category		Approp.	Expend	Proposed
Selectmen & Expenses	\$2,800	\$2,269	\$3,300	
Elections	1,000	0	2,000	
Financial Administration	8,000	5,537	6,000	
Legal Expenses	1,000	0	1,000	
Planning Board	200	0	200	
Community Building	3,200	4,034	4,000	
Cemeteries	1,700	0	1,200	
Insurance & Bonds	2,100	2,018	2,100	
Regional Associations	900	920	940	
Police Protection	4,300	3,559	5,600	
Emergency Dispatch Service	1,500	1,500	1,500	
Ambulance	3,263	3,298	3,320	
Fire Protection	10,000	5,290	10,000	
Roads	40,000	40,011	50,000	
Social Services	2,400	1,718	2,400	
Deposited To CRF - Roads	5,000	5,000	10,000	
Interest	500	0	500	
Assessing	5,500	4,972	5,000	
Soc Security & Medicare	900	560	600	
Mowing Roadsides	2,000	1,920	2,000	
<hr/>		<hr/>		
	Totals	\$96,263	\$82,606	\$111,660
General Information:				
Other Funds				
Town Hall Repairs		1,202	369	833
Cemetery Fund		700	0	700
<hr/>		<hr/>		
	Totals	\$98,165	\$82,975	\$113,193

Comparative Statement of Appropriations & Expenditures

Category	Approp.	Expended	Unexp.	Overdraft
Selectmen & Expenses	\$2,800	\$2,269	\$531	\$0
Elections	1,000	0	1,000	0
Financial Administration	8,000	5,537	2,463	0
Unemp, Soc Sec & Medicare	900	560	340	0
Planning Board	200	0	200	0
Community Building	3,569	4,034	0	465
Cemeteries	1,700	0	1,700	0
Mowing Roadsides	2,000	1,920	80	0
Insurance & Bonds	2,100	2,018	82	0
Regional Associations	900	920	0	20
Police	4,300	3,559	741	0
Dispatch	1,500	1,500	0	0
Ambulance	3,263	3,298	0	35
Fire Protection	10,000	5,290	4,710	0
Roads	40,000	40,011	0	11
Social Services	2,400	1,718	682	0
To CRF for Roads	5,000	5,000	0	0
Interest	500	0	500	0
Assessing	5,500	4,972	528	0
Legal Expenses & Damages	1,000	0	1,000	0
Totals	\$96,632	\$82,606	\$14,557	\$531

**BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
STUDENTS TUITIONED TO HAVERHILL
COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
AS OF JUNE 2007**

	<u>Total Students</u>	<u>Total Tuition Costs Per School</u>
Woodsville Elementary School	9	\$69,731.53
Haverhill Cooperative Middle School	10	\$86,455.67
Woodsville High School	12	\$107,661.39
TOTAL	33	\$263,848.59



**REPORT OF THE BENTON SCHOOL
DISTRICT TREASURER
FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2006 TO JUNE 30, 2007**

Cash on Hand, July 1, 2006	\$ -27,671.88
Total Revenues Received	401,962.54
Total School Board Orders Paid	375,030.14
Cash on Hand June 30, 2007	\$ 26,932.40

Maxine Tyler, School District Treasurer

**BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
BALANCE SHEET**

ASSETS	Acct
Current Assets	
CASH	100 26,932.40
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RECEIVABLES	140 242.64
OTHER RECEIVABLES	150
PREPAID EXPENSES	180
OTHER CURRENT ASSETS	190
Total Current Assets	<u>27,175.04</u>
LIABILITY & FUND EQUITY	
Current Liabilities	
INTERGOVERNMENTAL PAYABLES	410
OTHER PAYABLES	420 30.54
LOANS AND INTEREST PAYABLE	450
ACCRUED EXPENSES	460
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	470
DEFERRED REVENUES	480
OTHER CURRENT LIABILITIES	490
Total Current Liabilities	<u>30.54</u>
Fund Equity	
RESERVE FOR ENCUMBRANCES	753 0.00
RESERVED FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES	760
UNRESERVED FUND BALANCE	770 27,144.50
Total Fund Equity	<u>27,144.50</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	<u>27,175.04</u>

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS
PREVIOUS TWO FISCAL YEARS PER RSA 32:11-a

		<u>2005-2006</u>	<u>2006-2007</u>
<u>Special Education Expenses</u>			
1200	Special Programs	32,408	41,672
1430	Summer School	1,919	2,476
2150	Speech and Audiology	1,080	1,067
2162	Physical Therapy	-	-
2163	Occupational Therapy	2,312	584
2722	Special Transportation	10,564	10,494
Total Expenses		48,283	56,293
<u>Special Education Revenue</u>			
3110	SPED portion of State Adequacy	22,327	22,327
3230	Catastrophic Aid	1,084	1,084
4580	Medicaid	12,082	12,771
Total Revenues		35,492	36,182
District Cost for Special Education		12,790	20,111
<u>IDEA Entitlement Funds through SAU23</u>			
	Part A - Preschool	486	850
	Part B - Special Education	22,327	3,596

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPOSED BUDGET 2008-2009

Account #	Account Description	Current Budget	Proposed Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)
10.6.1100.561	REGULAR TUITION	297,320	328,606	31,286
10.6.1200.561	SPECIAL ED. TUITION	42,463	68,433	25,970
10.6.1300.562	VOCATIONAL TUITION	15,196	6,581	(8,615)
10.6.1430.561	SUMMER SCHOOL TUITION	<u>2,850</u>	<u>4,780</u>	<u>1,930</u>
	subtotal tuition	357,829	408,400	50,571
10.6.2150.330	SPEECH SERVICES	1,296	1,540	244
10.6.2163.330	OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY	<u>1,600</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>(1,200)</u>
	subtotal therapy services	2,896	1,940	(956)
10.6.2311.111	SCHOOL BOARD SALARIES	600	600	0
10.6.2311.220	FICA	46	46	0
10.6.2311.260	WORKERS' COMP	188	247	59
10.6.2311.520	PROPERTY/LIABILITY INS	2,339	2,696	357
10.6.2311.540	ADVERTISING	180	180	0
10.6.2311.640	BOOKS/PERIODICALS	51	50	(1)
10.6.2311.810	DUES FEES	827	820	(7)
	subtotal school board	4,231	4,639	408
10.6.2313.111	TREASURER SALARIES	200	200	0
10.6.2313.220	FICA	15	15	0
10.6.2313.260	WORKERS COMP	54	82	18
10.6.2313.534	POSTAGE	20	20	0
10.6.2313.610	SUPPLIES	<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>0</u>
	subtotal treasurer	319	337	18
10.6.2314.111	DISTRICT MEETING SALARIES	64	64	0
10.6.2314.220	FICA	5	5	0
10.6.2314.260	WORKERS COMP	<u>22</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>4</u>
	subtotal district meeting	91	95	4
10.6.2317.111	AUDIT SALARY	50	50	0
10.6.2317.220	FICA	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>
	subtotal audit	55	55	0
10.6.2318.330	LEGAL SERVICES	250	250	0
10.6.2321.310	SAU MANAGEMENT SERVICES	12,383	12,966	583
10.6.2721.510	REGULAR TRANSPORTATION	18,789	20,029	1,240
10.6.2722.510	SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION	12,000	12,000	0
10.6.2723.510	VOC. ED. TRANSPORTATION	<u>825</u>	<u>825</u>	<u>0</u>
	subtotal transportation	31,614	32,854	1,240
10.6.2832.540	ADVERTISING	21	16	(5)
		<u>409,689</u>	<u>461,552</u>	<u>51,863</u>
				12.7%

**BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
REVENUES**

	<u>2006-2007 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2007-2008 REVISED</u>	<u>2008-2009 PROJECTED</u>	<u>+/-</u>
Fund Balance to Reduce Taxes	7,202	27,145	-	(27,145)
<u>Local</u>				
1111 District Appropriation	192,845	154,423	233,860	79,437
1510 Interest	51	50	50	-
1980 Refund from Prior Year	107	-	578	578
<u>State</u>				
3111 State Adequacy Grant	117,924	123,820	123,820	-
3112 State Adequacy Tax	42,958	48,540	53,222	4,682
3230 Catastrophic Aid	1,889	7,418	6,000	(1,418)
3241 Vocational Education Tuition	-	13,420	11,397	(2,023)
3242 Vocational Transportation	-	1,400	952	(448)
<u>Federal</u>				
4580 Medicaid Reimbursement	12,771	9,500	7,700	(1,800)
4810 National Forest Reserve	23,973	23,973	23,973	-
TOTAL BUDGET AND ARTICLES	399,720	409,689	461,552	51,863

	SCHOOL TAX RATE				
	ACTUAL		ACTUAL PROJECTED		CURRENT
	<u>2006-2007</u>	<u>2007-2008</u>	<u>2008-2009</u>	<u>VALUATION</u>	
local property tax rate	\$12.52	\$9.84	\$14.91	\$5.07	\$15,687 per \$1,000
State property tax rate	<u>\$2.98</u>	<u>\$3.29</u>	<u>\$3.61</u>	<u>\$0.32</u>	\$14,757 per \$1,000
Total School Tax Rate	\$15.50	\$13.13	\$18.51	\$5.38	
Change from prior year		(\$2.37)	\$5.38		

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT #23 BUDGET SUMMARY
POSTING FOR EACH CONSTITUENT DISTRICT PER RSA 194:C-10

<u>DEPARTMENT NUMBER / DESCRIPTION</u>	2007-2008	2008-2009	<u>INCREASES/ (DECREASES)</u>
	<u>APPROVED</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	
1100 ITINERANT TEACHERS	139,580	144,777	5,197
1230 FRENCH POND PROGRAM	198,710	209,907	11,197
1231 KING STREET PROGRAM	149,449	164,371	14,922
1430 FRENCH POND SUMMER SCHOOL	8,620	11,110	2,490
1431 KING STREET SUMMER SCHOOL	-	1,588	1,588
2120 ITINERANT GUIDANCE	23,602	25,871	2,269
2150 SPEECH/LANGUAGE	207,436	196,138	(11,298)
2210 CURICULUM/STAFF DEVELOPMENT	1,448	1,133	(315)
2220 TECHNOLOGY SUPERVISION	79,312	79,704	392
2311 SCHOOL BOARD	3,385	1,632	(1,753)
2313 DISTRICT TREASURER	2,718	2,724	6
2317 AUDIT	5,500	5,500	-
2318 LEGAL COUNSEL	500	500	-
2321 OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT	398,520	405,627	7,107
2330 SPECIAL PROGRAMS ADMIN.	151,469	156,259	4,790
2540 SAU-WIDE PUBLIC RELATIONS	2,500	2,100	(400)
2620 BUILDING & RENT	21,800	22,200	400
2640 EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE & INS.	3,405	6,980	3,575
2810 RESEARCH, PLANNING, DEVELOPMNT	2,000	3,100	1,100
2820 NETWORK	24,960	27,902	2,942
2830 RECRUITMENT	300	450	150
SUBTOTAL GENERAL FUND	1,425,214	1,469,573	44,359
IDEA GRANTS	263,841	271,512	7,671
TOTAL BUDGET	1,689,055	1,741,085	52,030

% increase = 3.1%

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT #23 REVENUES

	BUDGET 2007 - 2008	APPROVED BUDGET 2008 - 2009	±/-
LOCAL REVENUE OTHER THAN ASSESSMENT			
1320 Tuition - French Pond	151,408	132,482	(18,926)
1321 Tuition - King Street School	151,408	170,334	18,926
1325 Tuition -French Pond/King St. Summe	8,620	12,705	4,085
1950 Itinerants	236,942	244,773	7,831
1951 Speech/ Language	207,748	196,138	(11,610)
1990 Other local revenue (town internet line	-	945	
1510 Interest	3,500	3,500	-
5000 Indirect Costs from SAU IDEA Grant	6,900	6,900	-
Use of Fund Balance	-	30,000	<u>30,000</u>
Total Other Revenue General Fund	766,526	797,777	31,251
1111 DISTRICT ASSESSMENTS	658,688	671,796	13,108 2.0%
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	1,425,214	1,469,573	44,359 3.1%
PROJECTED REVENUES FUND 22 - GRANTS	263,841	271,512	<u>7,671</u> IDEA & preschool
TOTAL SAU BUDGET INCLUDING GRANTS	1,689,055	1,741,085	52,030 3.1%

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
STATE
NORTH
HARVEY HILL, N
03774
17-08
HMD UNIT 08



U.S. POSTAGE
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